

Devotional Studies No. 9

Zeal for God's Redemption

Zeal for God's redemption is an enthusiasm for the initiative of the One true God who brought about redemption for lost humanity in and through His Son Jesus; Jesus is the window through whom one sees God. If one wishes to approach the Father of Light, this advancement toward God can only be done in and through Jesus. God's Eternal Being can only be seen in Christ. Christians rejoice daily in the Incarnation—the coming of the Son of God into the World. Even though Christ is the central message of the Gospel, nevertheless, the message of Christ reveals the Eternal God—the Father of the universe. The message of salvation is both Christocentric (Christ centered) and Theocentric (God centered). It is through Christ that God the Father is revealed. To see Christ is to see God. One knows the Eternal Son through the Incarnation—God manifested in the flesh. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us ([John 1:14](#)). Jesus is the Mediator between God and man ([1 Timothy 2:5](#)). He is called the Mediator because of what He is in Himself—the God-Man. He is the revelation of God ([John 14:6-11](#)) and the salvation of humanity ([1 Timothy 1:15](#)).

As one contemplates the Incarnation, one is immediately aware that the Incarnation is the divine and merciful answer to humanity's falling away from God ([John 1:10-14](#)). Jesus is the Mediator of revelation and the Mediator of reconciliation ([14:6](#)). Recognizing Jesus as the Mediator breaks down self-righteousness on the part of men and women. The righteousness that justifies is the righteousness that belongs to God. This righteousness is something that is given, not earned. It is only by faith alone that one can know the Mediator as the Mediator. In faith, God strips one of all pretensions, or self-importance. One can only expect deliverance from condemnation through God's act of mercy in and through His Son. The word *faith* should cause one to stand in awe of God's wisdom in His scheme of redemption. Faith is the means of allowing oneself to be humbled and, at the same time, to approach God as one accepts the unspeakable mercy of God.

Remember, it is in Jesus the Mediator that one is able to accept, or receive, the mercy of God. Jesus stated that no one could come to the Father except through Him. It is only in His Person that one meets the Personal God. The Being of the Mediator (Jesus) is the gift and act of God ([John 3:16](#)). God is known through His action—the giving of His Son for redemption. God acts in the Incarnation of the Son of God. Having said this, one must never forget that this act of the Incarnation involved the whole Trinity. In Jesus, God has found a firm footing with humanity. The presence of God for humanity begins in Christ. Are we sharing the message of redemption with others? Do we share the Cross of Jesus with others for their salvation? It is in the Cross that God actually does something, an objective transaction, something that is absolutely necessary for salvation.

As one contemplates the Death of Christ, one is immediately aware that Christ's sacrifice is presented throughout the writings of Holy Scripture as a cosmic necessity—He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (**Ephesians 1:4**). This fact of God's love should create within every believer a desire to serve God with zeal. It is in this vein that Paul writes: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (**Romans 12:11**). Again, Paul pens words of admonition about God's grace to Titus: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (**Titus 2:11-12**). If one wishes to maintain his or her zeal for the things of God, one should reflect upon the Cross of Jesus as the supreme demonstration of the depth and splendor of God's love to the world. Since the Kingdom of God is a sheer gift of grace, this should create within the hearts of men and women a zeal for God that cannot be quenched. In the preaching of the Cross, one is awakened to the reality that the Gospel of God brings men and women to God by bringing God to men and women. When one is forgiven in and through God's act of offering Jesus as an Atonement upon Calvary, one then has a new center of gravity.

Zeal for God comes when one realizes that the Cross is a place where one long road ends and another new road begins. If one wishes eternal life, this life can only be found in the One who gives eternal life. Death is inevitable! It is appointed unto men and women to die. Humanity is not only conscious of death, but that consciousness is his or hers alone. This consciousness does not belong to the animal kingdom, only to the kingdom of humanity. Death is the universal fact of all humanity; death claims the human race itself. Since in this life, no one has an abiding city, one should reach out to God with enthusiasm and eagerness for spiritual things. It is only the one who believes in God that wins the victory over despair and death. When one crosses the gulf that separates the present age with the age beyond, one is always aware that the present age ends with an event that is in itself the beginning of something new.

Death is the inevitable and only gateway to the eternal world of God. If one wishes zeal for God, one must live his or her life within the circle of ascended glory. Remember, the milk and honey is beyond the wilderness of this present age. For one to refuse zeal for God is to rebel against the Prince of human life. To rebel against God is the very meaning and measure of sin in all its ugliness. Are you resisting God? Does the fact that Jesus poured out His soul unto death for the sins of the world awaken within you a sense of awe and grandeur? The Divine initiative of God should create passion for spiritual things. This zeal, or eagerness, for God is possible for every individual who is confronted by eternity. How does one face eternity? It is the Gospel of God that gives hope to lost humanity. In the Gospel, God announces forgiveness.